

TARIFF—DELAWARE.

MEMORIAL

OF

FARMERS, MERCHANTS, MECHANICS, &c. OF NEW CASTLE  
COUNTY, DELAWARE,

*Against reducing Duties on Goods, &c.*

FEBRUARY 11, 1833.

Read, and laid on the table.

*At a large and respectable Meeting of the Farmers, Mechanics, Manufacturers, and Citizens generally, of New Castle County, in the State of Delaware, convened at the Town Hall in the City of Wilmington, on Tuesday, the 5th day of February, 1833, to take into consideration the present alarming crisis in our public affairs:*

Andrew Gray, esq. of Mill Creek hundred, was appointed President, and Jacob Alricks, of Wilmington, John Higgins, of Red Lion, and Jacob Pusey, of Christiana hundred, were appointed Vice Presidents; and William R. Sellars and Henry F. Ashew were appointed Secretaries.

John Wales, esq. opened the business of the meeting in a brief and eloquent speech, which he concluded by moving that a committee be appointed to prepare and report resolutions for the consideration of the meeting:

Whereupon, the President appointed the following persons, viz. William P. Brobson, E. J. du Pont, Mahlon Betts, John Wales, John Siddall, Alexander S. Read, Dr. James W. Thompson, William McCaulley, Alexander Macbeth, and Thomas M. Rodney—who reported the following preamble and resolutions; which were severally read, considered, and unanimously adopted, viz.

Whereas, in times of impending public calamity it is the duty and privilege of freemen to assemble and express their sentiments on public affairs, so that the constituted authorities may be strengthened in maintaining the powers confided to them for the common good; and whereas such a crisis has now occurred, involving, on the one hand, the subversion of our happy Union, or, on the other, the destruction of the system which has been wisely

established for the protection of American labor—by the assertion of a right, on the part of South Carolina, to nullify any law of the General Government which she may pronounce to be unconstitutional, and by the actual nullification, within her territorial limits, of all the laws passed by Congress for the protection of American manufactures: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That we regard the ordinance of the Convention of South Carolina, and the acts of her Legislature in pursuance thereof, as direct and open violations of the Constitution of the Union, and as meriting indignant reprobation rather than concession; and that, while these proceedings remain in force, it is unworthy the dignity and character of Congress to take a single step towards a compliance with the demand for a repeal or modification of the tariff: that such a compliance, whether proper in the abstract or not, would, under present circumstances, be offering a premium to treason, and be pointed to as proof, in all time to come, that our Government is too impotent to maintain the just rights and interests of the people against the arrogance of any State which may choose to dictate a sacrifice of those rights and interests to her arbitrary will.

*Resolved*, That we cordially approve of the proclamation of the President of the United States of the 10th of December last; that, with few and slight exceptions, it presents a just and eloquent exposition of the nature and character of our Union, and of the powers and duties both of the General Government and of the States; and that, its object being to enforce the laws of the Union by constitutional means, it merits and will receive the support of every citizen who prizes the happiness and institutions of his country.

*Resolved*, That we steadfastly adhere to the protective system as the true, sound, and saving policy of the country; as the great and pervading cause of the unrivalled prosperity which has attended our progress since the establishment of the system in 1824; that we utterly disbelieve that it inflicts any evil upon any portion of our country; and that its repeal, or any modification seriously diminishing the amount of protection, would be an act of madness or treachery which must, sooner or later, bring down the execrations of a betrayed and ruined people on the heads of those who may succeed in accomplishing so suicidal a project.

*Resolved*, That the assertion that the protective system is intended for the benefit of any particular class of men, or branch of industry, is a mischievous slander, invented and propagated by the enemies of the system, who are well aware that no means are more effectual for the destruction of the wisest institutions or the best devised systems, than to give them a bad name; that it is a common device of those who are engaged in exciting popular prejudice against the system, to represent it as a monopoly—an exclusive system—for the sole advantage of manufacturers, capitalists, nabobs, and aristocrats; that we view all such devices with indignation and contempt, as parts of the scheme which is now in active operation to bring into odium that great and beneficent system, whose wholesome influence is felt by the whole mass of our fellow-citizens—which fertilizes every farm, nerves the hand of every mechanic, and gives subsistence, comfort, and prosperity to every man who labors.

*Resolved*, That the reduction of the revenue to the exigencies of the Government does not call for the abandonment of the protective system; but that such reduction can and ought to be effected by reducing or diminishing the duties on articles which do not come in competition with the products

of American industry; and by increasing them on those articles which can be supplied by our own labor, to such an extent as effectually to diminish, if not prohibit their importation.

*Resolved*, That we are opposed to the bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means, now pending in the House of Representatives, as involving a sacrifice of the best interests of this nation to appease a rebellious State, and to promote the interests and feed the avarice of a foreign and rival nation; as a breach of national faith to those who have been invited, nay compelled, by former legislation, to invest their capitals in manufactures; as partial and unjust in its provisions; as unprecedented in the legislation of any country, and reflecting upon ours the imputations of caprice, fickleness, and instability—inasmuch as the act of July, 1832, passed by the present Congress, which it is intended to repeal, is still untried, having never gone into effect; and that we therefore solemnly remonstrate and protest against its passage.

*Resolved*, That, for the reasons hereinbefore given, we are opposed to any legislation during the present or any other session of Congress, the object of which shall be a reduction of the protective duties.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in all the papers of the State, and that the President be requested to transmit copies of them to the President of the United States, and to the Senators and Representative of this State in Congress, to be laid before that body.

*Resolved*, That this meeting now adjourn.

ANDREW GRAY, *President*.

JACOB ALRICKS, }  
JOHN HIGGINS, } *Vice Presidents.*  
JACOB PUSEY, }

Attest:

WM. R. SELLARS, }  
H. F. ASKEW, } *Secretaries.*

